FARM OPPORTUNITY FOR CITY POOR

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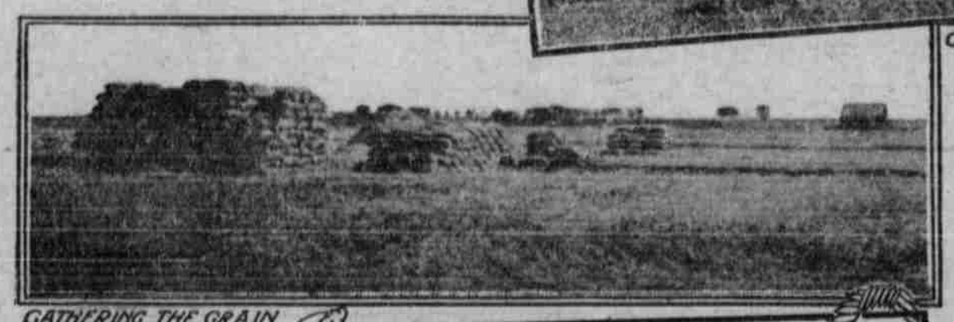
GUERNSEYS AT PASTURE

IT is difficult for those who are concerned more with enjoying the luxuries and pleasures of life than they are in securing its necessities to understand the feelings of those to whom hunger is not an unusual experience. And, yet, we are told that one-tenth of the American people do not get enough to eat; that four-fifths of our wage earners do not earn in excess of $500 a year. Living on such an income is likewise more or less incomprehensible to those to whom the expenditure of such a year's earnings in a brief outing in the mountains, the northern woods or at the seashore is not an unusual experience.

The problem of achievement of ambition and of success that confront the business or the professional man is radically different from that problem of existence that daily demands a solution from 75,000,000 of people in the United States alone. This problem is, of course, most acute in those centers of population and industry where great wealth and great poverty exist side by side in striking contrast. While poverty and misfortune are not unknown in the country districts, they exist there generally as a result of accident, misfortune or disease, and not from the lack of opportunities or the discrimination and injustice apparently incident to our present industrial system. While the problem of the poor has always been, and doubtless will always be, with us, that is no reason why we should accept with complacency conditions which, if not capable of being completely reformed, are, at least, capable of considerable correction.



GATHERING THE GRAIN

HIS FIRST CROP OF POTATOES

AT THE END OF THE HARVEST

The increase in the cost of living in recent years has given a new interest to attempted explanations of existing conditions, and various theories are offered. We are told that the increase in the amount of gold production, or rather the decrease in the cost of gold production, has lowered its value, and, therefore, enlarged our measure of value, with a consequent increase in the cost of necessities as well as the luxuries of life without a corresponding increase in wages and salaries; that combinations and trusts have increased the price of their products by arbitrarily fixing the price of the raw material to the producer and the price of the finished product to the consumer; that labor unions have increased the cost of the necessaries of life by the increase that they have brought about in wages; and finally, the explanation is offered that supply has not kept pace with demand; that consumption has increased more rapidly than has production.

It is unusual that a general condition is to be attributed to any one cause. That all of these influences are more or less responsible for the present conditions is probably true. That a permanent correction of the tendency of the price of the necessities of life to increase must be based upon a proper relation between supply and demand, is at once apparent. A demand increasing out of proportion to the available supply is sufficient in and of itself to cause an increase in prices. And any correction of the other conditions which may have helped to bring about the increase in the cost of living must necessarily fail unless there is maintained a proper relation between consumption and production. The fact that in 1909 the value of our exports of food-stuffs decreased, as compared with 1908, eighty-seven millions of dollars, while the value of the food-stuffs imported into the country increased thirty-seven millions of dollars, making a charge of one hundred and twenty-four millions of dollars upon the wrong side of our national ledger, shows that the consumption of that which we produce has been increasing more than has the production.

To bring about a correction of these conditions it is apparent at once that there must be an increase in production, and the question is how is this to be accomplished. We must either use to better advantage the soil that is already in cultivation, or cultivate that which is now uncultivated. The truth is, we must do both. Production in this country, as compared with other countries, shows that we are not using to the best advantage the great resources with which nature has endowed us. The average production of wheat in the Netherlands is 34 bushels to the acre; in England, 32; in Germany, 28; in France, 20, while in the United States it is only 14. The same disparity is found in fields of corn properly cultivated compared with those not properly cultivated.

In a recent report it was stated that approximately 40 per cent. of the soil that was cultivated was used in such a way as to decrease, rather than increase, its productivity. The correction of this condition of inadequate production, due to lack of scientific methods of cultivation, must come from the agricultural department of the United States and the agricultural colleges of the different states. From these sources the farmers must get the scientific information which will enable them to adopt not only effective methods of agriculture, but effective methods for conserving the productivity of the soil. The other correction must be accomplished by inducing a larger portion of our population to engage in the cultivation of the soil.

We can all agree as to the advisability of the "Back to the Soil" movement. But how to make it effective and successful is another and far more difficult problem. Some time ago George Ade, the great American humorist, said in a speech before the representatives of the Associated Press that everybody thought they could "write a play, run a hotel or edit a newspaper." He might have enlarged his list by adding "become a successful farmer." To put seed in the ground and see it grow seems so easy that almost every one imagines himself capable of doing it successfully. But we know that farming, that is, successful farming, is both a science and a business. One can make just as complete a failure of farming as he can of practicing law, running a hotel or editing a newspaper. It would be worse than useless to encourage the "Back to the Soil" movement if it is not planned and executed in a way that is likely to be successful. The natural yearning to "get back to the soil" that comes to most people causes such a movement to appeal to those who are well qualified, as well as to those who are poorly qualified successfully to do their part as cultivators of the soil. To go back to the soil is to the man of ordinary means and under ordinary circumstances something like pioneering, and not every man, by any means, is capable of becoming a successful pioneer. To undertake indiscriminately, unscientifically and without proper method and organization, to get people back to the soil will result in more of failures than successes; in more of injury than of good. But this work can be accomplished in a way that will be both effective and successful and which will increase the proportion of producers as compared with consumers. All that is necessary for the accomplishment of this result is that the same foresight and organization should be adopted in starting the business of farming as is adopted in the inauguration of any other business enterprise. If men of means, who also have the disposition to help their fellow men, would realize that they could make a good paying investment, as well as relieve distress and suffering by helping others to return to the soil in the right way, the "back to the soil" movement would then give promise of accomplishing all that its enthusiasts have claimed for it. Such a movement must, of course, be under taken on a busines basis; upon a plan which will promise not only a profitable return on the investment, but result in giving good homes and steady employment to many people who need both.

It is easy enough to say to the poor of the large cities that they should "go back to the soil;" but for the successful accomplishment of such a result money, and considerable money, is required. One cannot expect to make a living on a few hundred dollars invested in a farm and the machinery necessary for its cultivation, any more than one can expect to make a living on the same amount invested in any other business. So, in the first place, it requires money or credit to buy a farm, and money or credit to secure necessary implements, machinery, horses, cows, etc., to successfully conduct it. It will take from five to one hundred and sixty acres, according to the character of the soil and the methods of its cultivation, to support a family. You cannot expect large returns from a poor farm, or from a good farm, poorly cultivated. You cannot expect to receive a return from a farming investment out of all proportion to the value of the investment and the labor expended thereon. The difficulty in this proposition begins at once. Many of those whom we all agree should be brought back to the soil have neither the money nor the credit necessary to accomplish it. It is as to the method by which this difficulty can be overcome and this deficiency supplied that this article is written.

There have been successfully established in Missouri and other states in recent years a number of farm home colonies, which seem to offer the best method for bringing people back to the soil in a way which is likely to make the experiment a successful one. The general plan of these farm home colonies is for some individual or association to divide a tract of land available for farming and fruit raising into a number of small farms, which are sold on easy terms or rented to persons who desire to go back to the soil, with a central or home farm conducted in a way and with the appliances necessary not only to encourage and to instruct, but also to assist those living upon the other farms; the idea being that the central farm, under the control of an experienced farmer, will be a source of example, and with the establishment at some central place of a church, schoolhouse, blacksmith shop, creamery, silos, milk separators and other modern conveniences and necessities of the farm, the chances of success swill be increased and the chances of failure correspondingly lessened. The isolation and lonesomeness incident to individual effort in getting back to the soil is thus, of course, avoided, with a consequent improvement of conditions of social life.

Under the auspices of the Catholic church, and particularly under the direction of Archbishop John J. Glennon of the St. Louis diocese, there have been established in Missouri a number of such farm home settlements which have proven both interesting and beneficial. One was established some years ago at Knobview as an Italian colony, which has enjoyed a most successful career. There has resulted a marked benefit to the settlers, as well as to the people of the surrounding country who have been taught many things in the use of the soil by these foreign farmers that they had not known before.

One of the farm colonies that promises the most successful results is a Swiss colony recently established in Howell county, Missouri.

Another settlement of similar character has been established by Col. J. L. Torrey, who was the organizer of one of the "Rough Rider Regiments" in the war with Spain, and whose regiment through the unfortunate accident of a railroad wreck was perhaps deprived of the opportunity for actual service. Col. Torrey purchased a tract of 10,000 acres upon the southern slope of the Ozarks, which he is selling to deserving people upon terms which practically place it within the reach of all who are looking for an opportunity to engage in farm life who have not the means available to do so. That Col. Torrey is interested in developing good citizens, as well as good farmers, is manifest from the fact that he insists that every one of his tenants, or those to whom he sells a farm, shall own an American flag which they shall, on proper occasion, display from their homes.

These farm home colonies are all established on the same general plan. A tract of land is divided up into different farms with a central farm and village. The land is sold or rented on such terms as puts the opportunity to become a farmer within the reach of any deserving man. The profits or returns to be realized from such an investment will, of course, vary according to the size of the farm purchased and the character of the soil. Horace Greeley said that a man could make a living for himself and his family upon five acres of land. This is true of some land and not true of other land. But it is true that with a small acreage properly cultivated, with cows, hogs and chickens well managed, a good living can be made on a comparatively small investment if the enterprise is conducted with industry and intelligence. It is, however, always dangerous to "count your chickens before they are hatched." The results in farming enterprises, as in other enterprises, will usually fall short of expectation. Bad luck, accidents and other misfortunes will, of course, confront the farmer. But if he has "the right stuff in him," the land will yield him a liberal return if he will use good judgment, work hard and stick to it. He can then be independent of the beef trusts and other trusts; enjoy luxuries that the city man of means cannot secure, and view with complacency an increase in the cost of living when he realizes that he is a producer as well as a consumer.

When President Roosevelt's Country Life commission, after an extended investigation of conditions of country life throughout the country, made its report to the effect that improvement in the social life of the farmer was one of our most important problems, many regarded this statement as a mere academic or theoretical utterance. But any one really familiar with the conditions of country life knows full well that the limited social life of the country is one of the greatest disadvantages that now exists in connection with the cultivation of the soil. To provide a proper social life is an essential if the "Back-to the Soil" movement is to be made generally successful.

IN THE LIMELIGHT

JAP WAR HERO IN AMERICA

Admiral Togo, the Japanese war hero who came to this country as the nation's guest, is described by a Japanese official as one of the simplest and gentlest of men. "You would hardly imagine, to see the small, slender figure, that you were in the presence of the greatest master of naval strategy that our navy has produced, or that the world has seen in modern times."

Marshal Oyama, General Kuriki, Admiral Kamimura, Admiral Yamomoto and Admiral Togo were all born in the city of Kagoshima.

Togo had just grown to youth's estate and was fighting with a broadsword when a messenger came from the mikado ordering him to become a naval officer. He packed his few belongings and journeyed to England. When the Chinese-Japanese war was threatening Togo was captain of a cruiser. He halted an English ship with 1,000 Chinese soldiers aboard, and when surrender was refused, sunk it. This act started the war.

When the war with Russia broke out he was commanding a Japanese fleet. His daughter came to pay him a final visit, and he sent back word by her: "I am well and happy. They must not distract my mind by sending letters."

At an entertainment for the officers of his fleet just before the memorable battle of the Sea of Japan his officers found the admiral sitting alone, the sword of hari on his knees. They understood this meant victory or death. In Japan Togo ranks as no naval man in the United States ranks today. They love him over there next to the emperor.

IS A PIONEER IN ECONOMICS

In these days when so much is said and done for the conservation of our natural resources there has sprung up a new school of economists who are preaching the doctrine that in labor every effort, every expenditure of muscular or mental energy, should count for the utmost and not go to waste. A pioneer in this school is Frederick Winslow Taylor, who recently appeared by invitation before a committee of congress to explain how the application of his theories increases the productiveness of workmen from 15 to 20 per cent.

Mr. Taylor is a native of Germantown, Pa., and has risen to his present prominence through his own efforts. He is a patternmaker and machinist by trade and a mechanical engineer by profession. In 1878 he entered the employ of the Midville Steel Company, Philadelphia, and was successively gang boss, assistant foreman, foreman, master mechanic, chief draughtsman and chief engineer. In 1889 he took up the work of organizing management in manufacturing establishments, in shop, office, accounting and sales departments, and since then he has put his theories into operation in many business organizations, including steel works, wood pulp works, etc. He is the owner of about 100 patents on his inventions.

POPULAR WITH THE FARMERS

The champion long-distance cabinet officer is Secretary of Agriculture "Tama" Jim Wilson, for he has been holding down that job constantly since 1897, while he has seen more than a hundred other cabinet officers come in and retire to private life. "Tama" Jim is the friend of the farmers and the farmers seem to be friends of his.

Secretary Wilson has made the department of agriculture the greatest instrumentality of practical every-day helpfulness to 40 per cent. of the people in the United States. He has experiment stations finding out how to make dry farming pay where there is only ten inches of moisture a year; and they are finding it out, too. He brought the durum wheat from North Africa, and in the regions formerly too dry to be cultivable it has added millions of bushels to our annual wheat crop. He sent to Siberia, and there, far up in the north, found alfalfas that seem to need neither moisture nor warmth to develop good pasture.

He brought the finest Cuban tobacco, tested and analyzed the soil in which it grew, got detailed reports of the climatic conditions it required—and then hunted up the same soil and climate, and proceeded to grow the tobacco in South Carolina. He brought seed of the inimitable Sumatra wrapper-tobacco, searched for a place under the American flag where it would flourish, and found it—in Texas. To prove it, he will hand you a five-cent cigar made of Texas Sumatra and Carolina Cuban filler, if you will ask him; and you will pronounce it a high-class imported weed.

Everybody said hog cholera was incurable, and it cost the farmers tens of millions annually. Wilson's scientists spent ten years on its trail, and they've captured the right microbe, fixed up a serum, and put that particular disability on the run.

CHOSEN IMPERIAL POTENTATE

John Frank Treat, who was elected imperial potentate of the Mystic Shrine at Rochester, is a resident of Fargo, N. D., and a member of El Zagal Temple of the Shrine. From the four corners of the earth, by train, boat and automobile, an army of 30,000 Shriners swooped down and planted their tents on the Rochester oasis. From every part of the United States they came and even from far-away Scotland were pilgrims to the cradle of Shrinedom.

The Khartoum Temple, from Winnipeg, Man., brought a genuine Scotch kilties band of bagpipers; the Islam Temple of San Francisco had a Chinese band of 50 pieces; the Los Angeles Shriners brought two carloads of California fruits and wines to distribute to their eastern friends; the Galveston (Texas) Temple brought two carloads of Mexican burros; Osman Temple of St. Paul had its millionaire band, every member of which is a business or professional man whose fortune runs into big figures; El Zagal Temple, from Fargo, N. D., to which the pictured potentate belongs, brought a 15-foot loaf of bread and a cowbell of the same dimensions, and, in fact, every bunch had some novelty to spring.